“Poetry aims to express by means of language precisely that which language is powerless to express.”
—Paul Valéry (p. 429)

“It tries to tell you/like a mirror: look,/see, the sky/under your feet. Elusive,/a dare, an inch/of water enough/to drown in. Everything/that happened to you/begins here/and you could fall through it.”
—Sue Sinclair (p.52)

in the eye  (of contemplation

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“it tries to tell you  like a mirror
how to listen  past the edge
of drying up puddles.  past the edge of
an autumn maple leaf.  past the edge
of a word  fresh
with fallen rain—
in the eye  of the mind  pooling.

look  see the sky  under your feet
elusive  (a whisper of syllables)
in need  of attention
shriveled around the edges:  last night’s
words.

is poetry a pathology?  a dare
an inch of water
enough to drown in?

look see the way rain teaches
asphalt of its depressions.

turns them into eyes
full of shifting clouds

(inside memories’ splashing feet.)

and you wade through.

everything that happened to you

begins here—the way
pavement embraces sky the way

you are drawn to this moment

of not-pavement

and you could fall through it.

References:


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About the Author

Daniela Elza is a PhD student in Philosophy of Education who poeticizes philosophy and philosophizes poetry, and hopes to not only bring them back together, but also to bring them both to bear on school reform and cultural ferment. Her interests are in metaphor, the imagination, and reverie. Philo-poesis not just as a practice, a more courteous way of being in the world, but as a vehicle for transforming consciousness. As a way of loosening our grip on the world to invite a more intimate connection with it, which creates space for insight and revelation. She practices everyday. Yes, it is addictive. Her work appears in both literary and peer-review publications. For more you can visit her blog: http://strangeplaces.livingcode.org/